Extra Credit

The new executive order attempting to end birthright citizenship is a move that sparks hot controversy. America has long believed that all those born in the nation are citizens, a protection enshrined in law in the 14th Amendment. This executive order challenges that pillar, challenging its legality and fairness.

How does the media content relate to material covered in class?

Our class discussions in class on this subject of democracy, federalism, and separation of power brought out the validity of this observation. The restraints on executive power are enforced by the courts, as in earlier such instances. That this executive order, as in earlier controversial orders, is being challenged in court is additional evidence of the theory that the judiciary is still a check to avoid any over-exercise of powers. And there is federalism at work, too, with states reacting to immigration policy in different ways, influencing enforcement and public opinion.

What is your response to the media content?

I consider this judgment significant but troubling. It is significant in that it directly affects so many people and is an incursion on a constitutional right. But troubling as it goes contrary to the actual bases on which America was constructed. Most of our Founding Fathers were foreign-born but brought the nation into existence. For anyone to abridge citizenship under such circumstances has a feel to it of retelling history.

With what media characters do you most identify?

I identify the most with immigrants. Although I am an American citizen, I don't distance myself from people who were not born here. Citizenship is not where you were born but what you do for the nation and what values you embrace. Judging some people based on the immigration status of their parents comes off as random and unjust.

How do you feel emotionally about the content of the media?

I am appalled and, in plain terms, enraged. This executive order is not politics; it is a calculated slap to the face of an unalienable right. It goes against the vision of America as a nation of immigrants. Removing the born here citizens' citizenship denies history and ignores the contribution of millions of individuals who were not born U.S. citizens but were instrumental in the creation of the nation.

What is your spiritual response?

Spiritually, I denounce this executive order because it is evil. The Bible instructs us on justice, equity, and kindness to foreigners. Exodus 22:21 says, "Do not oppress or mistreat a foreigner, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt." We Christians are instructed to protect the weak and not take away their rights.

What should Christians do in response to this news?

Christians must rise and protest or battle this order. The Bible directs us to speak justice. Micah 6:8 instructs us to "act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Citizenship cannot be an exclusive privilege bestowed on someone but a birthright that remains true to America's founding principles.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come to You for justice and wisdom. We pray for policy victims who risk their future and identity. Soften leaders' hearts to have compassion and lead with justice. Empower us to be voices for the voiceless, love our neighbors as ourselves, and stand for righteousness. Give us courage to stand for justice and fortitude to fight injustice. May Your will be done on Earth as in Heaven.

In Jesus' name, Amen.